



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
International Peace Park
Biosphere Reserve
World Heritage Site

P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936
www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm

406 888-7800 phone
406 888-7808 fax

Glacier National Park News Release

August 2, 2003

For Immediate Release

Amy Vanderbilt 406 888-7906

Tony Clark 406 888-7895

NEWS03-69

Glacier National Park Begins Phased Set-up Operation

Safety Will Determine When the West Gate Will Open

WEST GLACIER, MONT. - A phased process to set-up operations on the west side of Glacier National Park will begin this weekend, Park Superintendent Mick Holm announced Saturday. A limited number of park management personnel will be allowed into the headquarters area to evaluate conditions. As safety conditions permit, additional NPS staff, landowners, businesses, park partners, contractors, concessioners and the public will be allowed in the west entrance.

"I'm pleased that we are taking the first steps to get the west entrance re-opened," Holm said. "But safety requires that it be a slow, careful process."

The decision on how quickly the Park Headquarters, Apgar and Lake McDonald areas will re-open will be made by park management in consultation with the Unified Incident Commanders involved in the Robert Fire.

"Safety remains our number one priority," Superintendent Holm said. "We appreciate everyone's patience in this process."

Glacier National Park employees are being contacted this weekend by park staff about re-entry plans. For answers to additional questions, employees are being urged to contact their supervisor.

In addition, landowners, concessioners, businesses, contractors and park partners will be contacted. If they have additional questions, they are urged to get in touch with their normal park contact or attend the on-going community meetings.

Once it is determined to be safe and services are in place, the public will be allowed to enter the park through the west gate. Until then, they can enter through the east side of the park.

The Going-to-the-Sun Road is open from St. Mary to Logan Pass. There is hiking, boating, camping and other activities throughout the east side of Glacier National Park as well as into Belly River and Goat Haunt. The Many Glacier Valley, Two Medicine, Cut bank and St. Mary areas are also welcoming guests.

Fire danger remains high because of the extremely dry conditions. Open flames are prohibited in the park. Smoking is only allowed in vehicles and in buildings where permitted. Visitors are encouraged to attend interpretative ranger talks to learn about fire conditions and what to do incase conditions change.

-NPS-